CLAIMS

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of: SEQ ID NO:2.

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2. An isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 in which the amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to the amino acid of: SEQ ID NO:2.

3. The polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the amino acid of: SEQ ID NO: 2.

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4. An isolated polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

5. An immunogenic fragment of the polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the immunogenic activity of said immunogenic fragment is substantially the same

15   as the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

20   7. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

8. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, obtainable by screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a

25   fragment thereof.

9. An expression vector or a recombinant live microorganism comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to any one of claims 6 - 8.

10. A process for expressing a polynucleotide of any one of claims 6 - 8 comprising transforming a host cell with the expression vector comprising at least one of said polynucleotides and culturing said host cell under conditions sufficient for expression of

5   any one of said polynucleotides.

11. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10   12. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 6 to 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. The vaccine composition according to either one of claims 11 or 12 wherein said composition comprises at least one other *Neisseria meningitidis* antigen.

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14. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide or immunological fragment as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5.

15. A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a

20   polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 5, or an antibody that is immunospecific for said polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.

16. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a

25   polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 – 5 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

17. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 6 - 8 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

5   18. A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Neisseria meningitidis* disease comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claims 1 – 5 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.